

NEWS RELEASE
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CITIZEN'S GROUP CALLS ISTOOK "HERO"

The taxpayer watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW), today issued a report rating Members of Congress on their votes on spending. Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), earned a rating of 95 percent, or "Taxpayer's Hero."

The group rated Istook as tied for sixth place out of all members of the House and Senate in cutting spending, and opposing waste and pork-barrel spending. Only five members scored higher than 95 percent. Istook was also among the top 3 freshmen in the rankings, and was the highest scoring member of the 60-member House Appropriations Committee.

"I have always pledged to be a strong opponent of government's big and wasteful spending," Istook commented, "and this survey shows my actions have matched my words."

To make their determination, CAGW monitored 20 key House spending votes between the beginning of the session and the August recess.

The poll included the vote for the administration's tax package, as well as an alternative deficit-reduction plan. If the House had consistently voted in line with Istook's 95 percent rating, the savings would have amounted to billions of dollars.

CAGW scored anyone with a rating of 20- to 39-percent as "unfriendly" to taxpayers, while zero- to 19-percent brings the title of "hostile to the taxpayer."

33 Members of Congress earned the "hostile to the taxpayers" title.

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Attached: CAGW Listing of House Members